Raids at the premises of Wholesalers of vegetables

657. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested so far for selling salt at inflated rates in Delhi;

(b) what steps have been taken to curb the price rise of vegetables, specially of tomato and potato in Delhi which have gone byond the reach of lower and middle strata of society; and

(c) whether any raid was conducted at the premises of wholesalers of vegetables and cold storages; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No arrests have been made by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for selling salt at inflated rates.

(b) In order to contain the price of onions and potatoes, the Govt, of NCT of Delhi, with the assistance of Govt, of India, started sale of these commodities through the governmental/ cooperative cutlets at subsidised rate of Rs. 10/- and *II*- respectively w.e.f. 8.7.98, the sale of potatoes has been discontinued in view of stability in prices of this commodity.

(c) As per reports from Government of NCT of Delhi, a strict watch was kept in Delhi and cold storages were checked, but no hoarding of vegetables was noticed.

Middleman between producers and consumers of vegetables

658. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the tiers of middle-men operating between the actual producer and the actual consumer of common vegetables like potato, onion, brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower, ginger etc.;

(b) the difference between the price earned by the producer and that paid by the consumer, item-wise during the last three months;

(c) the infrastructure available to the producer to reach the retail outlets like cold storage, transport facility etc. State-wise;

(d) whether Government would augment the infrastructure to cut down the intermediatary tiers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The Government has not conducted any study about the middlemen operating between actual producer and actual consumers of common vegetables. The difference between the price received by the producer and price paid by the consumer on each item depends upon the availability in the market and is governed by market forces. No special infrastructure facilities are provided to vegetable producers to transport their produces to cold storages, market etc.

(b) and (c) Data on these aspects are not collected by the Government.

(d) and (e) The Government does not exercise any control on the marketing of common vegetables. These are traded in the open market on the basis of demand and supply operations. Government is providing financial assistance for the setting up of cold storages and food processing industries in different parts of the country.

Capacity of F.C.L Godowns

659. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of FCI owned/hired godowns in the country, state-wise;

(b) the capacity of FCI godowns State-wise; and

(c) the rate of increase in capacity of godowns of FCI and other agencies for preservation of foodgrains in comparison to the rate of production of foodgrains and the population in the country, during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER

AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of the number of godowns owned and hired by FCI, Statewise and capacity-wise, as on 30.9.98 are indicated in the Statement. *(See below)*

(c) The construction of godowns is a continuous activity. The construction programme is drawn up by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other agencies in the various States keeping in view the specific requirements of the States and availability of funds. The addition in storage capacity by FCI in the last five years is as under:

s. No.	Year	Increase in storage capacity (in Lakhs MTs)
1.	1993-94	0.76
2.	1994-95	0.46
3.	1995-96	1.18
4.	1996-97	0.09
5.	1997-98	0.11

Statement

State-wise number of Godowns (owned & Hired) with capacity (owned & hired) Available with the Food Corporation of India as on 30.09.1998

(in lakh tonnes)

s. No.	State/UTs	No.ofGodowns Owned	Hired	Covered capacity Owned	Hired
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	—	0.17	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	35	77	11.82	4.47
3.	Assam	18	23	1.87	0.88
4.	Bihar	19	34	4.33	1.39
5.	Goa	1	—	0.15	—
6.	Gujarat	14	15	4.91	2.45
7.	Haryana	37	47	7.71	3.63
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4	13	0.11	0.16
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	3	0.77	0.24
10.	Karnataka	15	41	2.70	1.87
11.	Kerala	20	4	5.24	0.12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	41	105	8.31	5.44
13.	Maharashtra	17	32	11.77	2.93
14.	Manipur	2	1	0.12	0.01
15.	Meghalaya	2	3	0.10	0.07
16.	Mizoram	4	2	0.18	0.05
17.	Nagaland	4	2	0.08	0.13
18.	Orissa	22	25	2.54	2.03
19.	Punjab	108	198	21.04	25.21
20.	Rajasthan	35	40	7.07	2.51
21.	Sikkim	1	3	0.07	0.09
22.	Tamil Nadu	16	13	5.87	2.44
23.	Tripura	2	3	0.18	0.17
24.	Uttar Pradesh	54	179	15.02	12.27
25.	West Bengal	26	26	8.62	2.95
26.	Chandigarh Admn	. 4	4	0.40	0.21
27.	Delhi	7	1	3.22	0.05
28.	Pondicherry	3	1	0.41	0.12
	TOTAL	526	887	124.84	71.89

Measures to Check Prices of Essential Commodities

660.SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have evolved a series of short and long term measures to check rise in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the programmes chalked out by Government to check rise in prices of essential commodities failed to have an effective impact; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has already implemented several measures for augmenting the production of essential commodities, their distribution, exports and imports. Recently, certain short term and medium term measures were recommended in the meeting of Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories to check the rise in prices. A summary of the same is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) No study has been carried out to know the efficacy of the measures taken by the Government to check rise in prices of essential commodities. The measures suggested in the recent Chief Minister meeting are being implemented.

Statement

A summary of short term and medium term measures recommended to check the rise in prices